

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ECAC MEETING

REF: STATE 051410

1. STATE OF PREPARATION FOR TRIPARTITE MEETING REVIEWED MARCH 10 WITH BARRY THOMSON, CHAIRMAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, WHO WILL LEAD GOC DELEGATION WASHINGTON MEETING. THOMSON EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN RE TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON IN VIEW LABOR DISTURBANCES AT CANADIAN AIRPORTS WHICH MIGHT BE CLOSED IN EVENT OF SNOW. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS MAY TRAVEL BY TRAIN IF THEY CAN GET AWAY FROM OTHER COMMITMENTS IN OTTAWA MARCH 12.

2. CANADIAN DELEGATION WILL NOT INCLUDE ANY INDUSTRY OBSERVERS. THOMSON INDICATED TO TCO HE IS AWARE THAT ECAC NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ARE MUCH CLOSER TO THEIR CARRIERS THAN ARE US AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS, BUT NEVERTHELESS HE IS HESITANT ABOUT DESIRABILITY ADMITTING US OBSERVERS TO ALL SESSIONS AND PUBLIC RELEASE OF TRANSCRIPTS. SUGGESTED THEIR FULL TIME PRESENCE AND/OR KNOWLEDGE THAT FULL TRANSCRIPTS WILL BE RELEASED WOULD INHIBIT

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FREE DISCUSSION AND LIMIT VALUE OF DISCUSSIONS. HE

CHARACTERIZED PAST TRIPARTITE MEETINGS AS HAVING BEEN VERY PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL BECAUSE OF THE UNINHIBITED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE FROM POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT ATTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY AND THE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, HE SAID GOC DELEGATION CAN ADJUST ITSELF TO ANY CONTINGENCY AND HE WILL CHOOSE HIS WORDS TO REFLECT THE PRIVACY OF DELIBERATIONS OR LACK THEREOF.

3. THOMSON ALSO SAID CANADIAN ROLE AT WASHINGTON MEETING LIKELY TO BE PASSIVE AS CHARTER FARE ISSUE IS PRIMARILY US-ECAC ONE AND DOES NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVE CANADA. SIMILAR POINT MADE LAST WEEK BY J.F. CLARK WHO INDICATED THAT CANADIAN AUTHORITIES ARE AWAITING WITH INTEREST TO SEE WHAT FARES WILL ACTUALLY BE FILED BY THE US CARRIERS NOW THAT THE GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN. HOWEVER, EVEN IF THESE FARES ARE LOWER THAN THOSE WHICH CANADIAN CARRIERS CHARGE, THE AUTHORITIES DO NOT EXPECT DIVERSION ON A SIGNIFICANT SCALE TO US CARRIERS AS THE ABC SYSTEM AVAILABLE TO/FROM CANADA IS CONSIDERED MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THE PUBLIC THAN THE AFFINITY SYSTEM WHICH STILL DOMINATES THE US MARKET.
PORTER

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